



## **CITY OF BURLINGTON**

### **Department of Public Works**

Street & Park Department  
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## **CITY OF BURLINGTON PARK BOARD MINUTES THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2018 6:30PM**

**Acting Chairman Lisa Wasik called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.**

**Roll Call:** Present: Commissioners, Jeff Schopp, Jason Ledbetter Alderman Ruth Dawidziak and Acting Chairman Lisa Wasik. Also present: Peter Riggs, Director of Public Works, Aaron DeGrave, Park Foreman and Student Representative Koleton Mangold. Excused: Patricia Hoffman, Clay Brandt, and Jennifer Amborn.

**Approval of the January 25, 2018 minutes & January 31, 2018 special Park Board meeting minutes:** Acting Chairman Wasik entertained a motion to approve the January 25, 2018 minutes & January 31, 2018 special Park Board meeting minutes. Motion to approve made by Alderman Dawidziak. Seconded by Commissioner Ledbetter. All voted aye, motion carried.

**Citizen Comments:** NONE.

**Aldermanic Report:** NONE.

### **Director of Public Works Report:**

- A. Director Riggs advised the board of the Congress Street Bathroom was approved at the February 6, 2018 City Council meeting and demolition should begin shortly.

Riggs then advised the board of the continual tree removal occurring at Echo Park. Park Foreman, Aaron DeGrave advised that 22 ash trees have been taken down with 5 more to go. DeGrave also noted one linden tree would have to be taken down due to it being a safety hazard.

Riggs mentioned that several residents and members of the general public have either called or come by the DPW questioning if they can have the wood from the trees in the park. Commissioner Schopp questioned where all the wood from the trees was taken and wanted to confirm there was no chance of contamination once it was cut. DeGrave advised all wood was taken to the City landfill. Riggs stated the DNR confirmed there were no longer contamination concerns once the tree was cut. DeGrave noted that typically if a tree is taken down in the parkway the wood could be left there where people passing by could come and take it without issue; however in the parks the potential damage to the park land and the liability for the City is too great and would not be allowed. DeGrave also noted that most of this wood is chipped and reused at the Compost Site in the spring.

## **New Business:**

### **A. Placement of plaques/memorials in City parks/park pavilions.**

Director Riggs informed the Board the Schumacher family had approached him regarding purchasing and installing a plaque in the pavilion at Echo Park to commemorate their family hosting reunions there since 1943. Riggs stated there is no set policy on this type of recognition but in the past the board has allowed plaques on benches and dedications of trees. The board was in agreement not to allow the plaque as this would create a precedence which would not be in the best interest of the City or the parks. The board suggested maybe a tree dedication or bench plaque and with the knowledge that they incur all cost associated.

### **B. 2018 Park Development projects.**

Riggs advised this discussion would be based off the outline and numbers that came out of the Capital / Open Space Plan which was established in 2015. Riggs advised this discussion was not to approve of funding but to pursue a project and return to the board with a cost and funding source.

#### **Echo Park ADA access ramps**

Riggs advised there is currently some ADA access in place but it is not very convenient to get to nor to gain access to the amenities of the park. Foreman DeGrave advised the ADA access could go from the parking lot closest to Milwaukee Avenue with a curb cut being done and tying it into the sidewalk on Milwaukee Avenue. Another path would be installed by the new Veterans Memorial which would then interconnect with all of the existing bike paths providing access to the playground, restroom and other park amenities. Riggs advised a majority of this work could be done in house which would put the scope of the project well under the \$8,000 amount budgeted for.

Alderman Dawidziak questioned if this project could be completed prior to both Memorial Day and the Veterans Memorial wall dedication. Foreman DeGrave advised the project could be done within a week. Riggs questioned if the board wanted a design for the project prior to proceeding. The board was in agreement to proceed with the project and no need to come back to the board for any further approval.

#### **Hintz bleachers**

Park Foreman DeGrave advised at the Hintz Complex Caliva Field has 3 sets of the same type of bleachers at Branen Field where if replacing them as it new ADA requirements must have a hand railing or go to a lower seating capacity with no railing. DeGrave also noted the Caliva Field bleachers sit on a concrete pad which needs to be removed and repoured due to being unlevel. Ebbers Field also had 3 sets of bleachers needing replacement; however the

concrete pad under those is fine. DeGrave advised the board just like the Branen Field bleachers, the loss of seats would be about 20 per set of bleachers for each field; however there is a good cost savings as well as all looking the same. DeGrave advised the junior field bleachers are in dire need of replacement due to age and safety. Several board members were in agreement. DeGrave stated these bleachers are currently 10 rows but his suggestion was to go with 3 of the lower seating bleachers on that side and just replace one set on the 1<sup>st</sup> base side of the field. DeGrave noted that all of the useable seats would be saved on all bleachers removed for any future repair needs.

Acting Chairman Wasik questioned DeGrave if he was looking to replace all of the bleachers on Ebbers Field as she stated the metal bleachers seemed fine but the wood set was in need of replacement. DeGrave stated those could stay but due to the new ADA compliance rules with the bleachers he would have to look into retrofitting some sort of railing system on them or look into purchasing one. The board members were in agreement to look into having all replaced to keep all fields looking uniform and not having more to repair/replace in the future.

DeGrave advised he would begin getting estimates for the bleachers and provide the board with options. Acting Chairman Wasik questioned how long the timeframe would be to get all of the bleachers in. DeGrave advised he had just ordered the bleachers for Branen and they would be arriving in 3 weeks. He noted the only delay in getting the bleachers in at Caliva Field was due to the need to remove the old concrete and putting in new which would take about 2-3 days. Board members were concerned with getting all of these bleachers approved and installed prior to baseball season beginning in April. Riggs stated it would be close as the bleacher cost would have to be approved at the next month's meeting. DeGrave stated the concrete work would take the most time and is weather dependent. Discussion ensued regarding the timing of the bleachers going in and whether they should just be put on the existing pad so they could be used for the start of the season. It was determined between removal and installation of the new concrete pad and bleachers would most likely affect seating for a week's worth of games. Board members were in agreement to replace the pad at Caliva Field prior to putting the bleachers in. Riggs advised he would come back next meeting with a monetary amount for the bleachers.

### **Riverside – new pavilion**

Riggs confirmed with the board that they wanted something here to match what was on the Jucker side of the river. Board members agreed and Riggs would reach out to those who worked on that pavilion to get a better sense of the design plan. DeGrave advised for the Jucker pavilion there was a lot of excavating work that was done where he felt the concrete pad at Riverside was in good shape and could still be used. Riggs was confident the project could be completed within the year but reminded the board this project would still need to have plans drawn up and the project bid out. Commissioner Schoop voiced concern over park reservations at the park over the summer as this project would have the park out of

commission for quite some time. DeGrave advised the parks close for reservations as of October 1 which would still leave plenty of viable time to complete the structure.

### **Hintz playground equipment**

Riggs advised the board after discussions between him and DeGrave there doesn't seem to be a good site to locate any equipment.

Acting Chairman Wasik agreed with the lack of area for any equipment and also questioned what the City's liability was there now. Riggs advised that the City has recreational immunity for people getting injured at any of their parks. The board was in agreement to strike this item from the capital program with the possibility to revisit should another option present itself.

### **Wanger canoe launch**

Riggs advised the board as there are plans for to tie a sidewalk into the bathroom project this could all be tied into that or this could be approached separately. Riggs advised that there are grant funds available through the state which could be explored. The board questioned how hard it was to apply for the grants. Riggs stated it was a process but the board has a comprehensive plan in place which is the first step in showing there is some sort of strategic planning. Commissioner Schopp was concerned with the cost involved even with the grant referencing the work done at Riverside several years ago. Riggs advised that was more shoreline restoration which can become quite costly. The canoe launch on its own would be much lower in cost but could be done in conjunction with shoreline restoration to provide cost savings.

Discussion ensued regarding the how common multiple canoe launches were, accessibility to them and how to tie them all to the surrounding lakes in order to more effectively allow people to utilize them.

Riggs confirmed the board wanted to take a more City wide view of canoe launches in the City as compared to just two areas. The board was in agreement. Riggs stated he would continue to have this as a working item and continue to research this issue for the future.

### **Wagner Park – ADA bathroom & expansion of sidewalk**

Discussion ensued regarding the need for replacement of this bathroom as it's the oldest in the City. Board members questioned if the vandalism issues had ceased there as well as the usability of any part of the current restrooms.

Park Foreman DeGrave noted there were no vandalisms in Wagner Park but Bushnell had quite a bit. He also advised due to the ADA compliance rules the bathroom needed a complete overhaul.

Riggs advised the board that this restroom renovation will not have the same constraints as the Congress Street due to the need there for the additional fill and the soil stabilization. He noted should the board want to keep this as part of the capital improvement projects (CIP) it would be presented to the City Council and explored during the 2019 budgeting process.

#### **Wanger/Wehmhoff Jucker/Benson & Echo Parks – shoreline stabilization**

Commissioner Schopp questioned what was being done with the shoreline stabilization at Wagner Park as there are holes along the shoreline that needed to be filled with fresh rock or rip rap. DeGrave advised concrete was done but water got behind it and wore it away. DeGrave stated they would be trying stone/gravel but may end up with the same result.

#### **Echo shoreline restoration**

Riggs advised he and DeGrave had discussed shoreline restoration at Echo specifically around the bay typically where the ice hockey rink is. Riggs also stated they had discussed gaining some shoreline amenities such as fishing piers or ramps to get to the ice; however ADA requirements would come into play and would be costly.

Several board members questioned how Hot Chocolate Fest went over and Riggs advised it has seemed to pick up interest. DeGrave advised the lake is used frequently in that area for the hockey rink when the ice is safe and for ice fishing. DeGrave stated working towards shoreline restoration and these amenities at Echo are more beneficial than any other park due to its central location in the City and direct line of site of people from the main road.

Alderman Dawidziak also noted by looking more into the shoreline restoration along Echo including the amenities it would support the City's direction of utilizing the parks and bringing people into the community.

Commissioner Schopp questioned the long term dredging plan for Echo Lake. Alderman Dawidziak stated she believed this issue would be brought up during a future budget session due to the monetary requirement and the need for DNR involvement.

Acting Chairman Wasik questioned the benefits of dredging. Commission Schopp stated dredging would sustain the survival of the lake. Riggs confirmed and also added by dredging it adds storm water storage.

Discussed continued as to when dredging becomes critical and how does the City know when to do it and how to prepare for the expense so it doesn't become a last minute problem. Riggs advised he would research this issue and shoreline restoration grants and bring new information to the board when available.

Commissioner Schopp questioned if boat storage at McCanna Park was not allowed as there are still boats there. DeGrave stated there should be a sign up stating no boat storage. Riggs stated there should be an ordinance for that and if there is a violation the boats can be removed. Commissioner Schopp advised the original boat storage rack was an old Boy Scout project and now with the boats not being there could the boats/structure be taken down and maybe something done with the area to make it look a little better. DeGrave advised DPW crews had attempted this before and were stopped by the DNR due to permitting issues. Riggs advised he would look into what could be done there and update the board.

Riggs confirmed with the board he would be proceeding with the Echo ADA ramps and weather permitting Sunset bleachers would be in prior to baseball season. Options and costs for the Hintz bleachers would be brought back before the board. Construction of the Riverside Park pavilion this year would be explored as well as canoe launches in the various parks and shoreline restoration grants. Several commissioners asked if the canoe launches could be looked at being worked on to aid with the Bike Burlington event, Pedal, Paddle & Play.

**Old Business: None.**

**Other Items: None.**

**There being no further items for discussion, Acting Chairman Wasik entertained a motion for adjournment. Motion to adjourn made by Commissioner Ledbetter. Seconded by Alderman Dawidziak. All voted aye, and Acting Chairman Wasik adjourned the meeting at 7:41 PM.**

**Minutes submitted by:**

Angela Hansen  
Department of Public Works